

Franklin G. and Josephine Krall House  
201 Coleridge Avenue  
Llysven Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5877

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
FRANKLIN G. AND JOSEPHINE KRALL HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5877

Location: 201 Coleridge Avenue

Date of Erection: 1906-09

Description: The most distinguishing architectural features of this grand, late Queen Anne-style house are the expansive wraparound porch, the round corner tower with its conical roof, and a hipped attic gable with a recessed balcony. Visually, the house depends more upon mass and scale than upon detailing, which is more straightforward than ornate. The dentil trim under the eaves is subtle, for instance, but there are no extraneous brackets, swags, or spindles. The house does, however, boast several fine stained-glass and bevelled-glass windows. The first story is brick veneer, with wood shingles above--a Llyswen signature. The main roof is hipped. The house occupies the southeast corner of Coleridge and Whittier avenues.

History: Sited and scaled to impress, this house was begun in 1906 but not completed in its present form until 1909. Franklin G. Krall, a machinist for the PRR, and his wife, Josephine, took up residence here in 1907, two years after they purchased the lot for \$600. Tax records describe the house as unfinished in 1906, finished in 1907, unfinished in 1908, and finished again in 1909. The Kralls sold their home in 1919 to Charles and Louise O'Neill for \$7,300. Charles O'Neill, a former coal miner and already secretary-treasurer of the Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers Association, had only the year before "defected" to that organization from an executive position with the United Mine Workers of America. In the 1930s he was president of Peale, Peacock and Kerr, Inc., coal operators based in New York City, and by 1941 he was president of the Eastern Bituminous Coal Producers Association. The Altoona city directory for that year indicates that he was residing in New Rochelle, New York. The O'Neills sold the house at 201 Coleridge Ave. in 1942. It subsequently weathered a series of short-term owners before the present owners purchased it in 1968 for \$13,000. The current owner remembers bicycling past this house often as a child, on his way to the candy counter at Schmittle's store at 208 Coleridge Ave.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 160/201, 265/628, 471/105, 568/33, 604/126, 656/139, 877/299. Who's Who in American History, vol. 2, 1943-1950, 406.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.